Victor Zemenick 2714 N. Mont Clare Ave. Chicago, IL 60707-1607 May 9, 1999

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DOCKETS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (HFA-305) FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm.1061 Rockville, MD 20852 & CLEAR LABELING OF IRRADIATED FOODS

Re: Need for Prominent Labeling of IRRADIATED FOODS

(Docket #98N-1038)

Dear Food & Drug Administration:

In answer to the FDA's current intention to reduce the obvious notice on food product's packaging label of its treatment by *irradiation*, or to obliterate its notice altogether:

PLEASE PROVIDE PROMINENT & CLEAR LABELING of IRRADIATED FOODS be displayed on food products;

THE CONSUMER HAS A RIGHT TO PROMINENT & TRUTHFUL LABELING that is not misleading.

We look to our government to institute programs that are fairly regulated in providing us with truthful food product labeling. Just as food preservatives are displayed on our food product labels, so should the consumer receive notification of the treatment of *irradiation* on the food product label. Although we are advised that *irradiation* of our food will reduce the need for preservatives, and will minimize the possibility of any *irradiated* food products carrying bacterial or viral infection, we are still unaware of its unforeseen effects to our health, or on the environment. We as consumers want to <u>retain the right to choose</u>.

Sincerely,

VICTOR ZEMENICK

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